

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

**Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 6 as follows:**

The present invention also has another feature. A planar lighting unit includes a planar luminous element and an optical element. The planar luminous element has an exit plane from which light isotropically exits. The optical element is placed on the exit plane for gathering the light. The optical element includes an incidence plane and a plurality of protrusions. The incidence plane is formed on one side of the ~~optional~~ optical element for permitting the light to enter the optical element. The incidence plane faces the planar luminous element. The protrusions are formed on the other side of the optical element and each protrusion has a shape of a frustum.

**Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 16 as follows:**

The present invention also has yet another feature. A planer luminous unit includes a planar luminous element and an optical element. The planar luminous element has an exit plane from which light isotropically exits. The optical element is placed on the exit plane for gathering the light. The optical element includes an incidence plane and a plurality of protrusions. The incidence plane is formed on one side of the ~~optional~~ optical element for permitting the light to enter the optical element. The incidence plane faces the planar luminous element. The protrusions are formed on the other side of the optical element. Each protrusion has a shape of a frustum.

**Please amend the beginning at page 8, line 4 as follows:**

The present invention also has yet another feature. A liquid crystal display unit includes a backlight and a liquid crystal panel. The backlight includes a planar luminous element and an optical element. The planar luminous element has an exit plane from which light

isotropically exits. The optical element is placed on the exit plane for gathering the light. The optical element includes an incidence plane and a plurality of protrusions. The incidence plane is formed on one side of the ~~optional~~ optical element for permitting the light to enter the optical element. The incidence plane faces the planar luminous element. The protrusions are formed on the other side of the optical element. Each protrusion has a shape of a frustum. The liquid crystal panel, through which the light reaches a user's eyes, is placed near the protrusions.